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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97(b)(3)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In compliance with the Applicant's duty under 37 CFR § 1.56, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner. The items are listed on the attached form PTO-1449 and copies are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

The items identified in this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) may or may not be “material” pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56 and the submission thereof by Applicant shall not be construed as an admission that any such patent, publication or other information referred to therein is material or considered to be material (37 CFR § 1.97(h)), or even qualifies as “prior art” under 35 USC § 102 with respect to this invention unless specifically designated by Applicant as such.

The attached IDS is being filed in accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98. The filing of this IDS shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information, as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56, exists.

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242/300

Respectfully submitted,

LYON & LYON LLP

Dated: January 27, 2000

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Enclosures: